



October 24, 2007

House Health Policy Committee
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Representative Angerer and members of the House Health Policy Committee:

On behalf of the Michigan Eye-Bank, I want to thank you for your work on Senate Bills 710-715. This legislation would be the first comprehensive overhaul of the Michigan anatomical donation laws in almost thirty years. These bills will help save countless lives and will improve the quality of life for many others. We are extremely grateful for the efforts of Senators Gleason, Sanborn, Clarke, Allen, Kahn and Jacobs, sponsors of this legislation. The Michigan Eye-Bank fully supports the proposed revisions to Michigan's Uniform Anatomical Gift Law (UAGL), as passed by the National Conference of Commissioners of Uniform State Laws (NCCUSL) in 2006 and introduced in the Michigan Senate as SB 710-715. I ask that you include this letter in the Committee members' packets.

The Michigan Eye-Bank is a not-for-profit corporation whose mission is the restoration of sight. This is accomplished through the provision of eye tissue for transplantation, ophthalmic research and training. In addition, we fund eye and vision research and provide public and professional education to increase awareness of the continuing need for donation of eyes as well as all other tissue and organs. We continue to work diligently to increase public awareness of the need for eye, organ and tissue donation.

As one of the largest eye banks in the country, we feel that this legislation is of great importance to the residents of Michigan. Last year, the Michigan Eye-Bank provided over 1,300 corneal transplants. Enactment of the new UAGL will help us increase donation so that we will be better able to serve those in need of sight restoring transplants and further education and research into the causes and cures of blinding eye diseases.

Please feel free to contact us if you require the assistance of the eye banking community or have any questions.

Sincerely,

Florence M. Johnston
President and Chief Executive Officer